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TELEGRAM

INDICATE
 COLLECT
 CHARGE TO

EXCISE
EXCISE

FROM
Ambassy TEGUCIGALPA

CLASSIFICATION
~~SECRET~~

E.O. ~~XIRKX~~
TAGS:
SUBJECT:

ACTION:

12065: XDS-3 12/12/90 (NEGROPONTE, John D.) OR-M
PEPR, PINT, HO, VE, XK, CS, CO, ES
Central America Regional Grouping

CN: 9380

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

~~SECRET~~ TEGUCIGALPA 9380

~~NOBIS~~

DECAPTIONED

REF: (A) STATE 331060, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 9312

1. ~~SECRET~~ - ENTIRE TEXT
2. Per reftel (A) Ambassador called on President-elect Suazo afternoon December 17 at his hometown of La Paz to present our thinking on Central American Regional Grouping. Also present was Suazo confidant Carlos Flores and Embassy Public Affairs Officer. Meeting lasted ninety minutes and consisted principally of going over concept point by point. Through Flores we had provided Suazo with a comprehensive talking paper beforehand.
3. Suazo is on board. He welcomes the idea; and he understands why we feel we must press ahead now rather than awaiting his assumption of office. He did repeat twice;

AMB
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DRAFTED BY: AMB: JDNegroponete:kjl	DRAFTING DATE 12-18-81	TEL. EXT. 211	CONTENTS AND CLASSIFICATION APPROVED BY: AMB: JDNegroponete
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CLEARANCES:

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OPTIONAL FORM 153
(Formerly FS-413)
January 1975
Dept. of State

50153-101

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir.
() Release () Excise () Deny () Declassify
Date 10/2/98 Exemption pp

however, that, if for some reason, proposal does not prosper between now and January 27, he was prepared to sponsor the idea on behalf of Honduras starting at his own inauguration. Suazo expects Heads of Government from neighboring countries to attend.

4. Only substantive variation from our thinking on this subject, and Suazo repeated this quite emphatically twice, is that he believes Guatemala should be included. Suazo asked my reasoning as to why Guatemala had been excluded from our thinking. I mentioned sponsorship of OAS Resolution by the three core countries, the fact that they neighbor Nicaragua, and, frankly, the problems we have with Guatemala domestically. Suazo countered that if core group excluded Guatemala, then "Made in USA" imprint of the grouping would be clear to everyone with any knowledge of the region. Guatemala, he argued, is going through same evolution as Salvador, Honduras; they are holding elections next year; and to exclude them from organization designed to promote and defend democracy would be wrong, defensive, and conceding a point to enemies of democracy in Central America.

5. I asked Suazo's advice as to how best to go about promoting this concept with incumbent GOH, since President Paz is [redacted] and his Foreign Minister is out of town. Suazo counselled patience, pointing out that nobody but ~~XXXX~~ Paz himself in present GOH could get this

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kind of idea off the ground and that Paz might be offended if I were to raise it with one of his subordinates first. We are continuing to press for an early appointment with Paz.

6. As my meeting with Suazo broke up he remarked, as he has already done to me on several occasions, that he has not had a drink for twenty-three years, six months and seven days, and warned again that anyone planning to come to his inaugural should bring his own bottle.

JMN
NECROPONTE

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